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Academic ESL World History Unit 5. When stories go missing. The African Experience. Listening and Writing

Karin Lundberg

CUNY Hostos Community College

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Unit 5. Liberation

The African Experience: When Stories go Missing

Listening Assignment

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfznpykprPo>

The Powerful Stories that Shaped Africa

Stories make up the fabric of history. We also call these narratives. All cultures, nations and peoples have their specific narratives depending on the cultural, historical, and geographical context of a community. This counts for smaller groups as well as larger nations. However, some narratives are more lasting than others. Some narratives survive in the oral traditions of storytelling, and some are written down. Some evolve in a democratic context where many voices are heard. In other societies, they are told by a few chosen people and skewed to serve the purpose of a specific ideology. In many cases, narratives are altered due to power shifts or political take-over by opposing groups, or invaders, or they are simply destroyed.

In this listening exercise, you will have a chance to reflect on the African experience before, during and after the colonial period. In the talk by the author and researcher Gus Casely-Hayford, you will go on a journey and explore how African narratives have been lost as history of Africa often has been represented, not by the African themselves, but by the outside powers that controlled these territories in past. The most powerful colonial powers were Great Britain and France, but also countries such as Belgium, Germany, and Portugal.

Again, the focus here is on the powerful aspects of **perspective and point of view**. Who gets to tell the story? Which language is used to add a stance and quality to the narrative that helps shape a specific idea of a culture and its people?

- A. **Free Writing:** What are the stories of your country? Who is part of the story? What is it about? Why do you think it has survived? Write for 10 min.
- B. **Reflection:** Are there missing stories in your own country? If so, whose stories are they? What would their stories be about?
- C. **Before you listen:** Find these countries and towns on a map.

Mali, Timbuktu, Zimbabwe.

1. Where are they located? Coast, desert, mountains etc.
2. Find the history of the countries' names. How have they changed?
3. Where are these places located? Coast, desert, mountains?

4. Who was Sundiata Keita and Mansa Musa?

D. Reading Comprehension

1. Find the matching statements in the video.

Narratives / Name	Time	Place	Statement according to Casely-Hayford
Hegel (German philosopher)	19 th . Century		
Karl Mauch (German geologist)	19 th . Century		
Al -Faqi Al Madhi	2012		

2. Interpreting statements

Min. /Video	Topic	Quote by Casely-Hayford	My Interpretation
6 min.	1874- England Ashanti: Controlling the narrative		
12 min	Sundiata Keita: Securing legacy through stories.		
16 min.	Culture, trade, and transcontinental developments		

E. Reflective Response Writing: History matters!

One of Casely-Hayford's most forceful statements is that history matters.

Summarize what Casely-Hayford means by this statement in your opinion.

Do you agree with his statement? Write a reflective response. Be sure to offer examples to support your thinking.

Min. 200 words.